



Spartanburg County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

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Executive Director:
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Total children in county under
age 6: 20,960

Children under age 6 living in
poverty: 8.1%

Spartanburg County Highlights

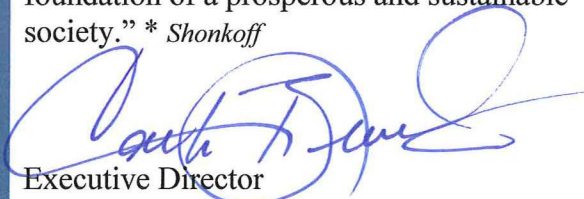
Served:

- 194 Adults Directly Intensive Service
- 203 Children Directly Intensive Service
- 978 Children Indirect through childcare
- 500+ adults indirect through Childcare trainings
- Individual Highlights
FS Early Head Start
- A parent returned home safely from Iraq
- A parent graduated HS
- Two parents completed ESL Classes
- A parent obtained her CNA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Closing the gap between what we know and what we do" *The Science of Early Childhood Development* (2007), National Scientific Council on the Developing Child Jack P. Shonkoff, M. D., Chair*

Spartanburg County First Steps trains 500 plus childcare teachers and directors annually, , collaborates with ten agencies and school districts, convenes partners such as the United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Center, our five local colleges and universities, funders and others in dialogue for quality initiatives, attends major state and national conferences, researches and breathes early childhood development, all which has helped the Spartanburg community to be at the "tipping point" of closing that gap between what we know and what we do. I am very proud of the staff and partners connected to Spartanburg County First Steps, they are a vital part of a movement in our community to support and the foster understanding that "Child Development is a foundation for community development and economic development as capable children become the foundation of a prosperous and sustainable society." * Shonkoff



Executive Director

Spartanburg First Steps

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING:

Spartanburg County First Steps Board voted for the 2007-08 program year to continue the four (4) Family Literacy sites serving the county. Three of the four Family Literacy sites are located in outlying areas of the county at present; one is in the city of Spartanburg. All utilize the Family Literacy Model integrating the four components of Family Literacy including at each site; a parent educator, a licensed childcare facility, GED and diploma programs for adults, and interactive literacy. Monthly site visits, data collection, case management meetings and quarterly meetings with Family Literacy providers take place to monitor the effectiveness of the programs. The strength of the program funding has been the quality GED and diploma programs using certified staff in combination with quality childcare and interactive literacy, a best practice model in the nation.

Parent Educators facilitate monthly home visits for families in some of the most remote areas of the county to further support the Family Literacy programs. By integrating the Parents as Teachers Parent Educators and the First Steps Family Literacy sites, the model has been strengthened. The elements of the Family Literacy Model were found to be more effective as a result of all four combinations of the best practice model being used.

Program results:

- 390 Adults and 479 Children were served
- 62 Adults gained in at least one educational function level.
- Participating families received an average of 1.35 home visits each month
- 6 Adults obtained their GED
- 8 Adults obtained a High School Diploma
- 766 Home Visits were completed
- 751 community referrals were made

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Child Care Training

This strategy has been in place for four years. Spartanburg County First Steps Early Education Project initially formed two focus areas to serve the intent of the Mary Black Foundation Grant. **The Quality Institute** provides intensive education, training, and mentoring support to fourteen (14) childcare centers to strengthen the quality of childcare in those centers and support the centers in moving toward NAEYC. The project also works with over 800 childcare employees through membership in the **Early Education Network (EEN)**. The EEN provides quality training on a monthly basis for childcare providers in Spartanburg. The strategy also includes an Annual Early Education Learning Conference with over 300 participants from across the state held at the Spartanburg Marriott and sponsored by private and public funding. The Mary Black Foundation awarded SCFS with a second grant award in the amount of \$81,100 to bring the community together to study the feasibility of creating a child care resource center to serve the academic, medical, business and child care industry. As a result of the study, Spartanburg County First Steps lead in the establishment of The Children's Service Alliance, a new 501©3 organization in Spartanburg, SC. The Alliance is charged to build a facility which offers on-site training for child development professionals, college students and provides supports to strengthen local pediatric medical care for young children. Spartanburg County will also experience economic development through the establishment of the facility and expanded programs. Two major components of the facility will provide:

- Spartanburg County institutions of higher education with a shared learning lab and expanded internship experiences and research opportunities.
- Local childcare providers with a learning lab to increase quality care skills. Spartanburg County will serve as a model community for the innovative effort of bringing together medical, childcare, academia and businesses to support quality early care and health.

Program results:

- 500 + unduplicated Child Care Staff received training that resulted in quality changes in their classes in 2008
- 82 training opportunities were provided
- 14 child care centers received intensive technical assistance that resulted in quality changes for their centers.
- Centers gained from .5 to 2.0 points in the 7 point Environmental Rating Scale
- 2 centers began entrance to the NAEYC accreditation process

EARLY EDUCATION.**Early Head Start****Program description:**

Spartanburg County First Steps Early Head Start (FS EHS) supports three program options based on the federal Early Head Start program model. They are: Services to Pregnant Women (SPW), Home-Based (HB) and Center-Based (CB). Each family in the program has a Family Service Specialist (FSS) who works directly with that family. The FSS are supported by Program Specialists with expertise in Social Work, Early Child Development, Special Needs, Mental Health and Family Literacy and who provide Reflective Supervision regularly. The Health/Nutrition Specialist is an LPN who oversees and supports services in the areas of health and nutrition. All FS EHS services are individualized to meet the needs of the children and their families.

Home-based

Parents as Teachers *Birth to Three* bi-monthly curriculum model is used in home visits with two other visits each month for case management activities. Family Service Specialists are monitored by Program Specialists who are also trained in the Parents as Teachers curriculum.

Center-based

Each FS EHS Center Based site has a Program Specialist assigned to the site to provide ongoing technical assistance. Center directors and teachers/caregivers are trained in the Early Head Start standards of quality. Each site has had specific training as the standards relate to curriculum. Directors and teacher/caregivers receive ongoing training in best practices for infants and toddlers. Program Specialists, Family Service Specialists, Directors and Teacher/caregivers have been trained in the ITERS (Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale) an assessment tool to help measure indicators of quality. Each center developed its own curriculum based on Creative Curriculum with parent and teacher input and technical assistance from the Program Specialists.

First Steps Early Head Start Program results:**Number served:**

- 190 children
- 25 pregnant women
- 150 families
- 121 children waitlisted

Disabilities (Cumulative- More than 12 children required or 10% of funded enrollment)

- # of Part C children served-22
- % of funded enrollment (10% or more required)-19.17%

Home Visits

- Cumulative 1,480

Volunteer hours-

- 47 volunteers donated 630.25 hours of volunteer service to EHS worth \$9,276.25.
- 11 volunteers were parents who donated 78.50 hours of volunteer service worth \$910

Staff Training Opportunities

- 100% of the staff was involved with ongoing training programs totaling over 848 hours

Child Development

Children's development will be enhanced in a supportive environment as evidenced by monitoring:

- Classrooms are evaluated annually using the Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS) and any deficits are addressed in ongoing improvement plans
 - *100% of the classrooms were evaluated using the ITERS in the winter of 2007 and 2008 (December & January).*
 - *100% of centers have developed improvement plans addressing deficits which are being monitored by FS EHS Program Specialists*
- Initiation of the process of self-study for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation
 - *1 center has received NAEYC accreditation*
 - *1 center to begin accreditation process PY 08-09*
 - *2 centers are in the process of Self-Study*
 - *1 center to begin Self-Study Process PY 08-09*

SCHOOL TRANSITION.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Program description: To create awareness and knowledge for parents about the importance of home activities relating to literacy and hands-on learning up to kindergarten. This teacher home visitation program teaches parents how to advocate for their children within the education system

Program results:

- 28 children served
- 100% children received 7 or more visits

Financial Summary

Expenditures by Funding Source

State Appropriation.	\$782,372	State Private	\$1518
E.I.A. Appropriation	\$57,812	Local Private	\$384,278
Lottery Appropriation	\$14,428	Federal	\$1,444,396
		In-Kind	\$563,367

Total: \$3,251,770 w/In-Kind

Total w/o In-Kind: \$2,688,403

Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name

Parents As Teachers (Dist.#7)	106,407.73
Family Literacy Model Programs (JNJ & KS)	4,465.00
Family Literacy Model Programs (Dist #7)	263,467.00
Head Start Programming (JB and TIMC) - Private	251,490.00
Head Start Programming (SCSDB and WP) - Public	161,740.00
Head Start Programming	1,056,203.20
Countdown to Kindergarten	10,743.62
Child Care Training & Professional Dev. (MP)	49,056.00
Child Care Training & Professional Development	339,646.16
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$188,737
Administrative Functions	\$256,447
Total Expenditures	2,688,403

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Mary Black Foundation	\$302,229
Early Education Network/Trainings	\$7,373
First Steps Conference Dues	\$113,088
Parent Co Pay	\$9,092
CACFP/ABC Vouchers FS EHS	\$214,190

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 313.8%

Financial Success Story Note :

Spartanburg County First Steps has leveraged over \$11,000,000 since FY 2001.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Member /Category I Elected

Joy Ballenger

Angela Williams

Raymond Davis

Bernerdine Feemster

Angela Williams

Mary Mathes

Bob Page

Ava Hughes

Monique Watson

Dr. Kelly Harrison-McGuire

Tom Reed

Reverend Kevin Harrison

Member Category II /Agency Appointed

Jane Hammett

DHEC

Ray Trail

DSS

Daylan Stephens

Spartanburg County Public Library

Philipa Sellars

Head Start

Joan Dudgeon

South Carolina School Deaf Blind

Ann Greene

Spartanburg County School \District One

Barbara Mills

Spartanburg County School \District Two

Connie Mc Clain

Spartanburg County School \District Four

Wanda Fowler

Spartanburg County School \District Five

Susan Hendrix

Spartanburg County School \District Six

Brenda Story

Spartanburg County School \District Seven

Category III/Legislative Appointee

Kay Phillips

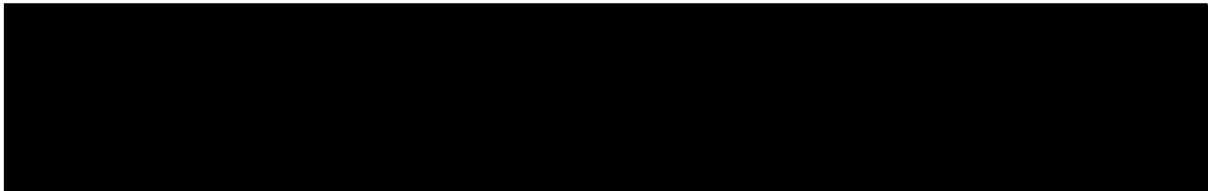
Sue Schneider

Counsel

Patrick Cont

COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY08, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Spartanburg County

Total Children Under Six: 20,960

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

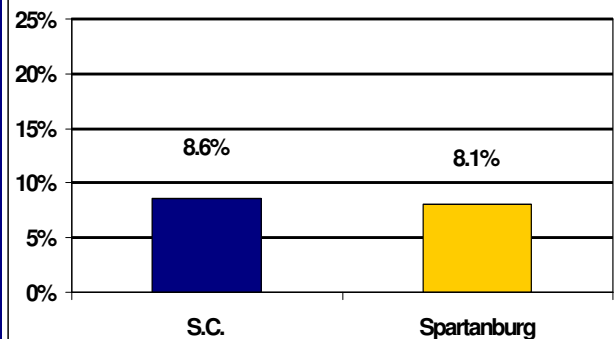
Spartanburg County (2007): 8.1%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 12 Spartanburg County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

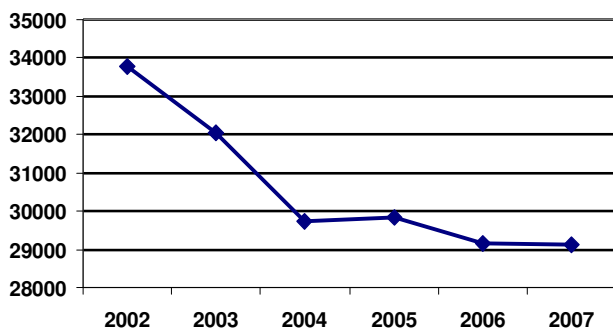
Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.

1,705 of Spartanburg County’s 20,960 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

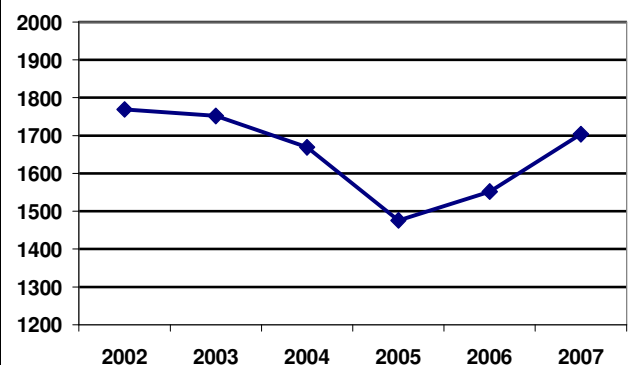
Children Under Age 6 Receiving TANF Benefits
(August 2007)



South Carolina Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



Spartanburg County Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Spartanburg County

Total Children Under Six: 20,960

CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

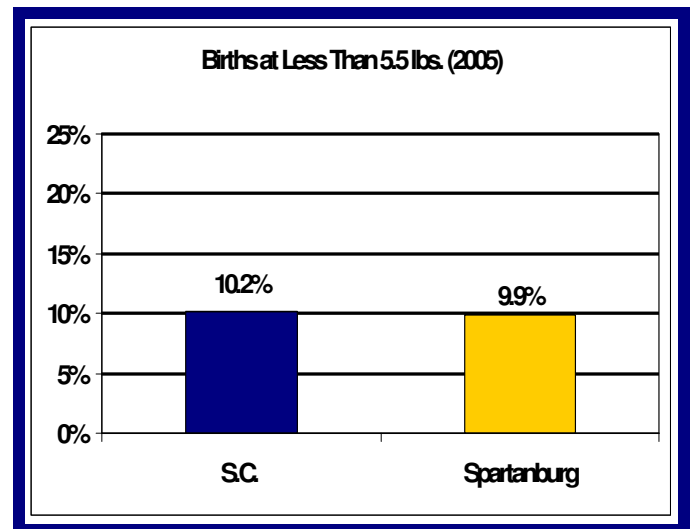
Spartanburg County (2005): 9.9%

Fast Fact: 1 in 10 Spartanburg County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

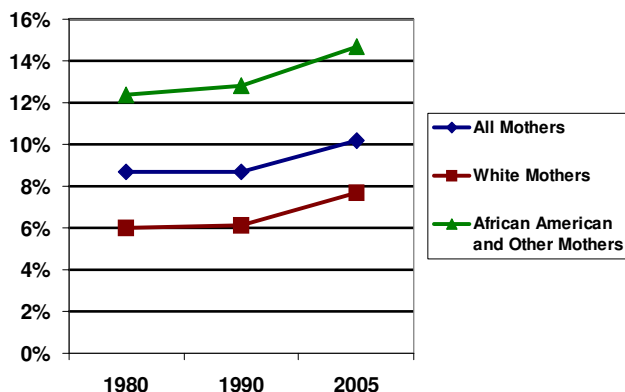
Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.

Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.

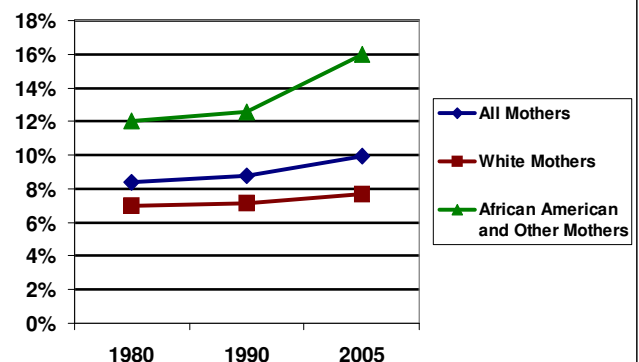
336 of the 3,411 children born in Spartanburg County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



South Carolina Births at Less than 5.5 lbs.



Spartanburg County Births at Less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Spartanburg County

Total Children Under Six: 20,960

BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

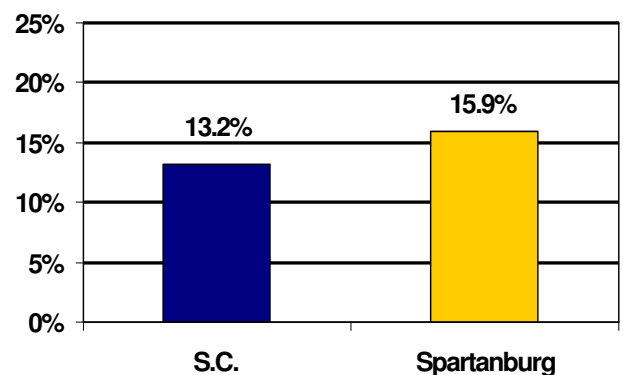
Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% Spartanburg County (2005): 15.9%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 6 Spartanburg County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

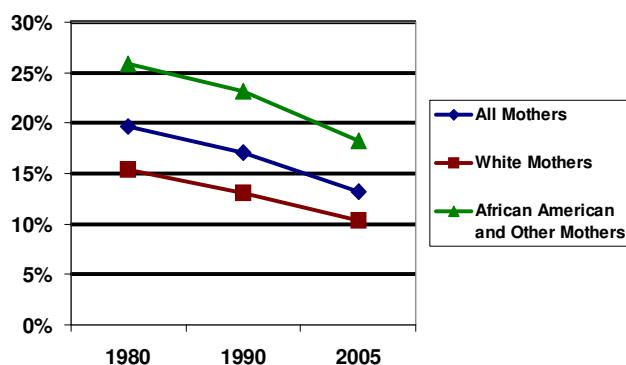
Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.

544 of the 3,411 children born in Spartanburg County during 2005 had teenage mothers.

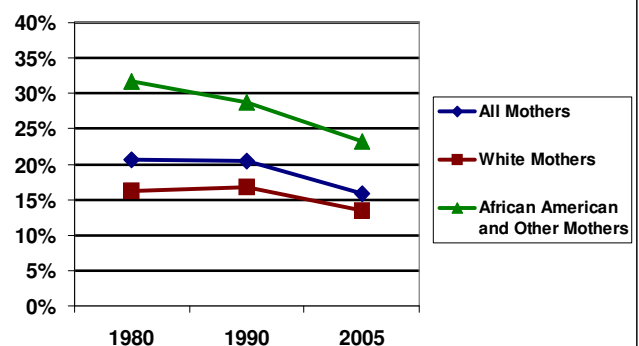
Births to Teenage Mothers (2005)



South Carolina Births to Teenage Mothers



Spartanburg County Births to Teenage Mothers



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Spartanburg County

Total Children Under Six: 20,960

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

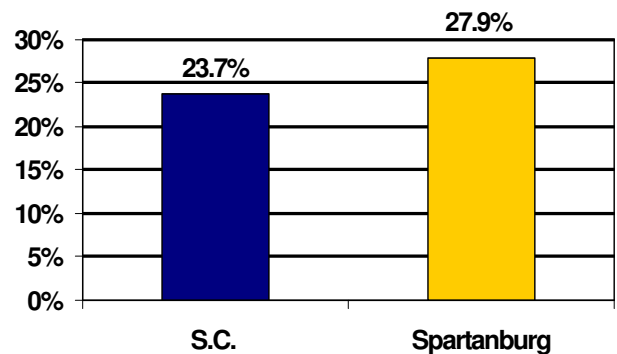
Spartanburg County (2005): 27.9%

Fast Fact: Just over 1 in 4 children in Spartanburg County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

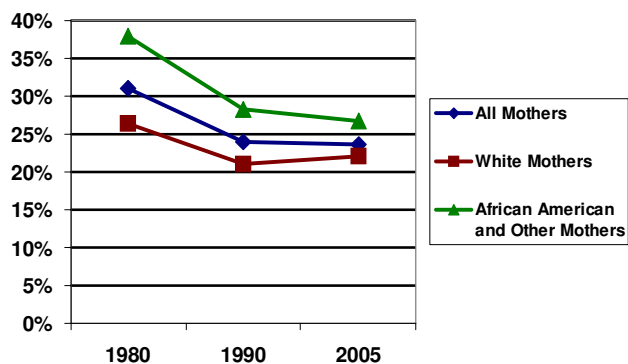
Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

950 of the 3,411 children born in Spartanburg County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

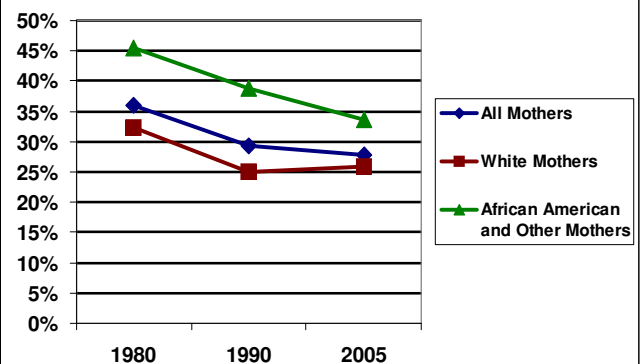
Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma (2005)



SC Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Spartanburg County Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Considered a story of success for our community, the Children's Service Alliance seeks to convene partners in children's services and leverage support and funds to change outcomes for the children in our county. Here is the story...

Increasing the quality of childcare in the county became a focus within Spartanburg County First Steps. Through combined funding from First Steps and the Mary Black Foundation, a Child Care Quality Initiative was implemented and has produced strong positive results, in community outcomes and school readiness. In light of the success of this initiative it seemed the right time and place for Spartanburg County First Steps to explore alternative programs to increase school readiness outcomes as Legislatively mandated for the 10,000 children in child care settings representing 198 child care facilities in the community. For the past two and one half years Spartanburg First Steps and strong community partners have worked toward a solution for positive outcomes relating to the education, health and welfare of, as Susan DeVenny says, our youngest citizens.

Included here is a *Case Statement of the Children's Service Alliance*, Spartanburg County First Steps considers this Alliance as a first step on the way to a success story and we are honored to be an initiator and partner with the following distinguished leaders in our community.

Ingo Angermeier, CEO, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Carolyn Brooks, Director, Spartanburg County First Steps
Dr. Bernie Dunlap, President Wofford College
Kathy Dunleavy, President, United Way of the Piedmont
Dr. Betsy Fleming, President, Converse College
Dr. David Goolsby, Director, Department Health Environmental Control
Tim Hayes, Chief Human Resource Officer, Mary Black Health System
Tom Jennings, Principal, NXT
Dr. Darryl Owings, Superintendent, District Six Schools
Dr. William Powell, Director, Department of Mental Health
Dr. Jon Schwartzbauer, President, Sherman College
Dr. John Stockwell, Chancellor, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. Dan Terhune, President, Spartanburg Community College

A primary purpose of the CSA is the development of a collaborative membership that will plan, build, occupy and/or utilize a facility housing not only the early education services described above but also other related services, particularly those of pediatric medical specialties. The CSA envisions this facility and the programs it will house as key elements in supporting the advancement of children's wellness through improvement of local childcare quality, community education, advocacy, and through the facilitation of research opportunities in related areas. The proposed center will also result in the implementation of comprehensive services, best practice programs, research opportunities and expanded services to the Spartanburg community.

In order to bring this vision to fruition, it is essential that an appropriate facility be made available to the program. Having reviewed several possible facility options, CSA members have decided that its initial primary focus is best directed to raising funds to build the Early Education Learning Lab component for this proposed center for children's services. Therefore, the Children's Service Alliance has decided to seek financial resources from a variety of possible sources including (but not limited to): grants, existing organizations, and charitable donations.

The comprehensive nature of this proposed facility and programs brings to the table several important partners who readily commit to the CSA vision, including organizations responsible for student education from early childhood through college years and medical entities. In particular, CSA has the opportunity to participate in a joint partnership with the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's (SRHS) pediatric services. This proposed partnership would include co-location of the Early Education Learning Lab with SRHS pediatric services – although each of the two entities could maintain independent space and program autonomy. The benefits of proximate locations are significant and include: benefits from various research opportunities, shared expenses and physical plant services (such as security, transportation and group maintenance, etc.) Most importantly, this proposed plan allows both the education and medical components of CSA to address the unique community needs of quality early childhood education, quality pediatric health and wellness services, trainings and research around care issues affecting young children.